A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
1893-1993

W. B. Chaffey

INCORPORATING THE 1992/93
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND REPORT

Colonel C. M. Morant, first Chairman, 1894-97.

W. B. Chaffey (left) and George Chaffey (right).

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Compiled by D. L. Tripney

Centenary 23rd December 1993

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Foreword

Renmark was established by the Chaffey Bros. in 1887 as the first irrigation settlement in Australia. However, the enterprise failed in 1892.

This brief history of The Renmark Irrigation Trust: summarizes the nature and extent of the Trust's activities over the first 100 years since its inception in 1893. It serves to demonstrate the foresight, determination and energy of a succession of Chairmen, Members and staff to the well-being of the Renmark district and its residents over this period.

The Beginning

The Renmark Irrigation Trust was constituted by a Statute of the South Australian Parliament which was assented to on 23rd December 1893. The main purpose of the Trust was to facilitate the putting into operation of the water rights to which the ratepayers were entitled under the terms of the Chaffey Bros. Irrigation Works Act of 1887. The financial failure of the Chaffey Bros'. enterprise at Renmark had necessitated the introduction of measures to protect the interests of those landholders who had taken up and developed irrigated land in the Renmark district.

Acting under the provisions of the Act, nominations were called from eligible persons for election as Members of the Trust. As a result, Messrs. William Henry Harrison, Cathcart Rutherford D'Olier, Richard Turner, Thomas Madigan, James Ivors McGarvie, Charles May Allen Morant: and Morris Ralph Fitzgerald were declared duly elected by Constable D.W. Teate, in his role of Returning Officer. At its first meeting, held on 11th January 1894, the Trust elected Col. Morant as Chairman. The meeting resolved that Mr. George Chaffey be invited to meet with the Trust at a convenient date in the near future. At the subsequent meeting, Mr. Chaffey agreed to a series of requests, among which were the payment of 200 pounds per year towards office expenses, including a secretary's salary and the use of offices for the Trust in the Company's office building in Renmark. It was also agreed that the water supply for the district would continue under the terms of an existing tri-partite agreement between Chaffey Bros. Limited, the Liquidator of Chaffey Bros. (Renmark) Limited, and the Renmark Irrigation Company Limited. This agreement had been entered into in December 1890 following the liquidation of Chaffey Bros. (Renmark) Limited.

The Trust appointed Mr. James Price as its first Secretary at a salary of 150 pounds per annum. This was to be reviewed at the end of the year on the basis of the outcome of the operations for the period.

At a later meeting with Messrs. George and Charles Chaffey on 19th January 1894 Messrs. Chaffey presented a plan for the irrigation, in six sections, of the land taken up by the settlers at that stage. It was proposed that water be made available once a month to each section. Messrs. Chaffey also undertook to make water available, in the interim, where possible, for domestic purposes. The Chaffeys, as the contractor, would supply water continuously for 24 hours for each ten acre allotment.

The Trust declared its first Water Rate of 10 shillings per acre for the half-year ending on 30th June 1894 on the 3000 acres of the district developed for irrigation at that stage. A bank account was opened with the Union Bank in Adelaide and it was decided that meetings, which the Act required should be held once monthly, be held on the third Monday.

At the request of several Members, it was decided that, it being the opinion of many of the settlers that the watering scheme laid before the Trust previously was in many cases impracticable, Messrs. Chaffey be advised that the scheme could only be accepted conditionally, subject to its functioning satisfactorily. Ratepayers were advised that water orders should be submitted in written form to the Chaffey Company's employees prior to each irrigation.

A sub-committee prepared draft By-Laws pursuant to the Act which were then considered by the Trust and submitted to the Crown Solicitor for approval. The By-Laws were finally adopted by the Trust and proclaimed for the future administration of the district. Certain machinery from No. 3 pumping station had been held in bond at the Renmark wharf following the liquidation of Chaffey Bros. (Renmark) Limited and the Trust Secretary was instructed to make enquiries regarding the payment of the necessary duty. As a result, permission was received from Treasurer Holder for the release and installation of this machinery at the pumping station without prior payment of the duty.

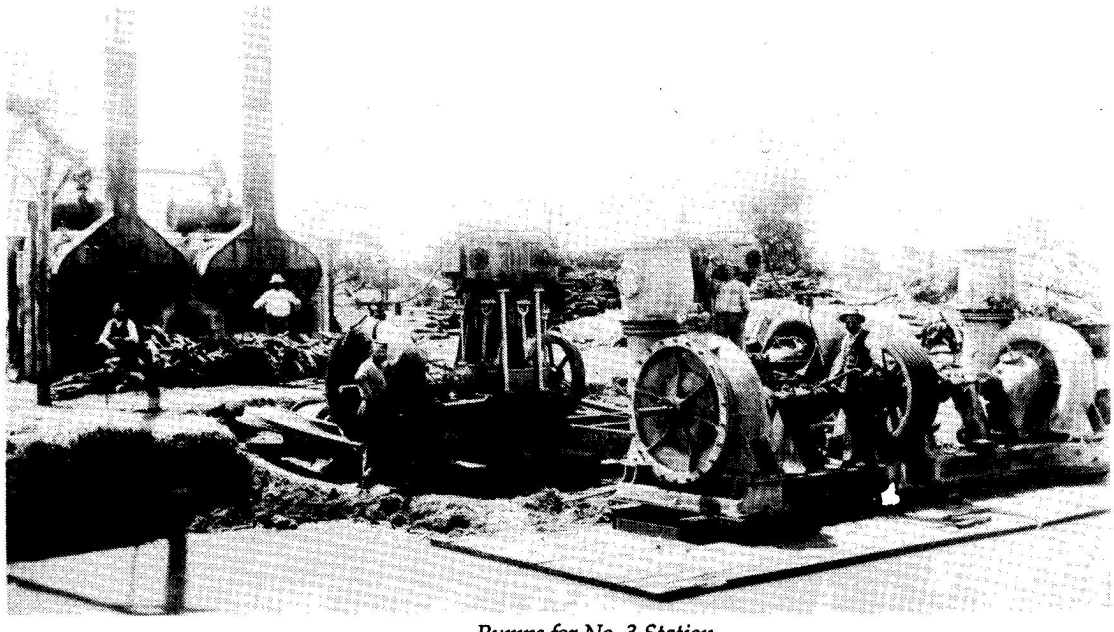
In order that adequate funds were available for the normal day to day operations of the Trust, it took action against any ratepayers with arrears in rates and, further, instructed that water would not be supplied in such cases until all arrears were paid. Another pressing problem was that of stock wandering on channels throughout the district, with consequent damage to channel structures. In an attempt to control this problem, the Trust arranged for the construction of a pound and appointed a ranger and pound keeper to impound stock detected wandering at large.

Early Days

In December 1895 the Trust was forced to consider its position following the formal winding up of Chaffey Bros. Limited. This necessitated a series of telegrams between the Trust and the provisional Liquidator of the Company to ascertain what action was proposed by him to continue to pump water to properties within the district. The provisional Liquidator eventually informed the Trust that he had obtained the authority of the Court to continue

Constructing a channel.

The 60-Foot Channel under construction.



Pumps for No. 3 Station.

pumping, but he added a condition that the Trust should first pay to him, as Liquidator, the sum of 100 pounds under the terms of the pumping agreement. The Secretary was at once instructed to proceed to Adelaide to obtain legal advice on the Trust's position at that juncture.

Acting upon that advice, the Trust then informed the Liquidator that it proposed to apply to the Supreme Court for an order to take over the pumping plant at Renmark. As a result, Solicitors acting for Chaffey Bros. Limited in Liquidation agreed to the abandonment of the pumping contract.

In March 1896 the Trust appointed Mr. A. Thomson as its first Watermaster at a salary of 140 pounds per annum and engaged other personnel for the purpose of pumping and distributing water to ratepayers' properties within the district. A formal request was submitted to the State Treasurer for a loan of 3,000 pounds to carry out urgent repairs to Trust works and plant. A report was prepared for the Trust by engineering consultants on the condition of the pumps, machinery and channels and an engineer was appointed to supervise the repair works to be carried out with the Government's loan.

The Trust's office building in Murray Avenue, which had been earlier rented from its owners for 5 shillings per week, was eventually acquired by the Trust for the sum of 320 pounds.

Valuations were prepared for the Trust, for balance sheet purposes, which valued machinery at 5,500 pounds and all works taken over from Chaffey Bros. Limited at 35,000 pounds. To provide for operating funds between half-yearly rate collections, the Union Bank approved an overdraft of 200 pounds, but required personal guarantees from the Trust's Chairman and certain ratepayers for this amount. The Trust, without prejudice to any legal course open to it for recovery of any amount the guarantors might be required to pay, undertook to credit any such amount against current or future rates which it declared on their ratable land.

Following the winding up of the affairs of Chaffey Bros. Limited, the Trust found it necessary to instruct its Solicitor to take steps to restrain a number of unsatisfied debenture holders of the Company from selling various machinery and plant then claimed to belong to the Trust. This restraint was eventually achieved by Court order.

When the Union Bank withdrew its overdraft facility, the Trust closed its account with that bank and opened a new account with the Bank of New South Wales in Adelaide.

A Royal Commission appointed to enquire into operations at Renmark carried out an inspection of the area on 31st May 1899. The Trust was represented before the Commission by its Chairman, Secretary and Watermaster and placed before the Commissioners a proposal that the Government loan of 3,000 pounds for maintenance works should be converted to a grant and a further sum be granted sufficient to put the pumping machinery in a thoroughly efficient condition and to provide funding for the lining of all channels.

As the outcome of the report of the Royal Commission, further legislation, in the form of Act No. 733 of 1900, provided for loan funds of up to 16,000 pounds for the carrying out of specified maintenance works by the Trust within its district. It also conferred upon the Trust the powers of a District Council.

Local Government

In an action which was to foreshadow other approaches in future years, a group of ratepayers petitioned the Trust to call a special meeting, at which a resolution was passed that the Trust should not continue to exercise, nor exercise, the powers of a District Council until such time as the township of Renmark could be brought within the jurisdiction of such District Council. At about the same time, the Trust received a petition from 33 township residents, praying that the township be included within the Trust's district. This matter was later resolved, at least in the short term, by the proclamation of the Renmark township as a Council in its own right.

In its role as a District Council, and within the terms of the Local Government Act, the Trust formally established a cemetery and appointed a curator, as well as assuming responsibility for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges within the settlement. The control of rabbits and sparrows, which were presenting problems for ratepayers' plantings and crops, was attempted by the introduction of bounties on both.

Following a successful application to the South Australian Government for the purpose, the Trust gained the formal lease of the town wharf.

A plan and report was prepared for the Trust for relocation of the No. 1 pumping station to a site nearer the township on the river frontage. The chosen site was purchased from the owner for the sum of 50 pounds and an adjoining site, comprising about 1 acre, for a further 25 pounds.

Stringent financial conditions early in 1905 resulted in the Trust's pre-occupation with the collection of arrears in rates and taking action in cases where payment was overdue. The Trust formally resolved that any member whose rates became in arrears would have his position automatically declared vacant and nominations called for the vacancy. In response to offers by both the Secretary and Watermaster, the salaries of both of these officers was reduced by 25 pounds per annum, due to the expected scarcity of funds during the year.

Responding to local concern at the lack of medical services within the district, a general meeting of ratepayers formally authorized the Trust to declare a special rate not exceeding sixpence in the pound to provide for the services of a medical officer. The eventual appointee was accommodated initially in a room in the Trust's office building.

Financial stringency of the period eventually required the Trust to approach the South Australian Government with a request for some relief in its loan commitments. This was approved and gave rise to a further amendment to the Renmark Irrigation Trust Act in 1907, providing for the consolidation of the earlier loans of 3,000 pounds and 16,000 pounds, together with interest, to form a capitalized amount of 19,641 pounds 5 shillings, repayable over a term of 15 years with interest at the rate of 4½% per annum. Early in 1910, ratepayers' approval was sought and obtained for the declaration of a special rate of 2 shillings per acre per half-year for a period of 12 months for the purpose of purchasing 2 new Robison pumping units for No. 3 pumping station and a similar pump for No. 1 pumping station. The estimated cost of this equipment was 1,500 pounds. The ratepayers' approval was given on the condition that no new lands were added to the assessment as a consequence of the installation of these pumps, unless a premium of 10 pounds per acre was paid by any ratepayers whose assessments were increased, and provided that the ratepayers' existing supply was not prejudiced by any such additions.

Following a decision by the Bank of New South Wales to open a branch in Renmark, office accommodation was provided to the Bank in the Trust's office building. The Bank occupied these premises for an unbroken period of 25 years, prior to constructing its own premises in Murray Avenue in 1938.

Irrigation Extension

Further funding was made available to the Trust in 1919 by way of a loan of 18,000 pounds, which was provided at 5.5% interest and repayable over a term of 20 years for the purpose of providing pumping plant, channels and other necessary works to supply water to land in the area described as Block E. The Act Amendment in this case allowed the Trust to levy a charge, not exceeding 10 pounds per acre, on the land supplied with water by the works. Any such amounts received by the Trust were to be paid to the Treasurer in repayment of the loan funds, but any excess funds beyond the loan and interest could be retained by the Trust for its own purposes. These arrangements resulted in the development of No. 6 pumping station and Block E channel distribution system and the expansion of the irrigated area of the district by about 1800 acres, most of which was devoted to World War 1 soldier settlement.

In the expansion which followed the first World War, water was sought, and supplied, to other land in both Block D and Block F in circumstances where the land owners wished to place all or portions of their properties under irrigation.

With the onset of the Depression, further appeals were made to the Government for relief from the Trust's financial obligations. This resulted in the Treasurer formally advising in November 1930 that the loans consolidated under the Act Amendment of 1907 had been settled on the basis of the Trust's payment of 9,641 pounds 5 shillings and the Government's writing off of the balance.

In July 1931, the Trust discussed with ratepayers the action it proposed for the protection from flooding of private property within the district. It was pointed out that the Trust did not have power under its Act to spend moneys on the erection of flood banks for such protection or for the declaration of a special rate to raise funds for this purpose. It could, however, expend revenue to protect its own works from flooding. A circular letter had been sent to all ratepayers seeking voluntary assistance in flood protection works and this had elicited replies which indicated that slightly more than half of the respondents were prepared to assist unconditionally, while the balance would either prefer to pay a levy towards the cost or had refused to provide any assistance at all. The Trust was urged to exercise its powers as a District Council in undertaking the construction of flood banks of sufficient height to protect the settlement from a river flood of 1917 magnitude and that the cost be spread over a period of 3 years. A meeting of the Trust was convened on 20th July 1931 at which it was agreed that, as Parliament was then in session, the Chairman and Secretary should take up the matter with the Premier with a view to gaining for the Trust the necessary power to expend revenue on constructing flood banks to protect the district. In a display of support, the Government subsequently introduced a Bill within that week to give the requisite power and this was passed on 6th August 1931. Flood protection works then proceeded, funded from the normal revenues of the Trust.

Electricity Generation and Distribution

The system of pumping for the settlement comprised steam driven pumps at pumping stations Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 located at various points within the district. This necessitated the cutting, carting and stacking of timber by contractors at each of these pumping sites to power these plants. Because of the benefits of such a proposal, the Trust investigated the requirements for a steam driven plant at No. 1 pumping station to generate electric power for transmission to each of the other pumping stations. An agreement was reached with Wallaroo Mount Lyell Fertilizers Limited for the purchase of generating plant from Wallaroo for 1,750 pounds, with a further expected cost of dismantling and transfer of the equipment to Renmark of 9,000 pounds to 10,000 pounds. The Trust had been advised that this plant was in excellent condition, but it was being disposed of due to the then high cost of coal fuel. The plant comprised a Bellis and Morcom vertical compound V-type engine, direct coupled to a 375 KVA alternator.

It was proposed that, following the installation of this plant at No. 1 pumping station and the electrification of pumping stations Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6, the workshop and maintenance headquarters at No. 3 pumping station would eventually be transferred to No. 1 pumping station.

Following the completion of the electrical installation at No. 1 pumping station, some upgrading of the existing pumps was necessary to increase their efficiencies. Replacement pumps were ordered for pumping stations Nos. 3 and 6 following the completion of electrification.

The erection of transmission lines from the power station to the sites of the various inland stations had given rise to enquiries from ratepayers as to the availability of domestic power to residences in the locality. When the electrification of pumping stations had been virtually completed and firewood for the power station was received from up-river and delivered direct to stacks at the site, a new saw mill was purchased and erected at the station. Redgum logs were then transported down-river and cut to commercial sizes to meet the Trust's needs and other local demand.

A proposal for a domestic electricity supply system gained wide and immediate support from ratepayers and the Trust proceeded with the preparation of plans and estimates for the necessary works. The Bank of New South Wales advised of its support in the form of loan funds up to a maximum of 15,000 pounds at an interest rate of 4.5% per annum for the undertaking. The Trust began negotiations with the Renmark Council for a supply to the township in bulk. While this proposal did not come to fruition, electricity was eventually made available to portions of the area controlled by the District Council of Berri.

Drainage problems

In June 1933 the Trust considered a report prepared by its Engineer on the drainage problems being experienced in the Block E area. This report indicated the action taken in sinking bores at 5 chain intervals along Namoi and Barwon Streets from Ral Ral Avenue to the vicinity of Ral Ral Creek. All water levels in these bores showed a general fall towards the creek. However, since the levels near the creek were below river pool level, this suggested that the lock had no influence on the general level of the water table in the area. The report proposed that either open drains or underground pipelines be installed to drain seepage affected properties on to an area adjacent to the creek, which was intended to be used as an evaporation basin.

After consideration of the staff report, the Trust decided that, while it supported undertaking the works as described, it could not justify the expense, estimated at between 3,000 pounds and 3,500 pounds, being levied against the ratepayers as a whole, when a relatively small area of the district was involved. The Trust felt that this was a matter for the Government to consider with regard to the provision of finance.

A submission was therefore prepared and submitted to the Hon. M. McIntosh (Commissioner of Crown Lands) for funding for the Block E drainage proposal. The Trust gave consideration to the necessity for a further amendment to its Act to give it authority to construct drainage works within the district and to declare a drainage rate on land serviced by a drainage system.

Because of the extent of local concern at the general spread of the water table throughout the Block E area and other parts of the district, a proposal was put to the Government that the river level be dropped by 4 feet each winter to attempt to offset the problems believed to be caused by the locking system. The Engineer-in-Chief agreed to this proposal, provided that levels of the water table were monitored to ascertain any benefits derived thereby, especially in the Block E area.

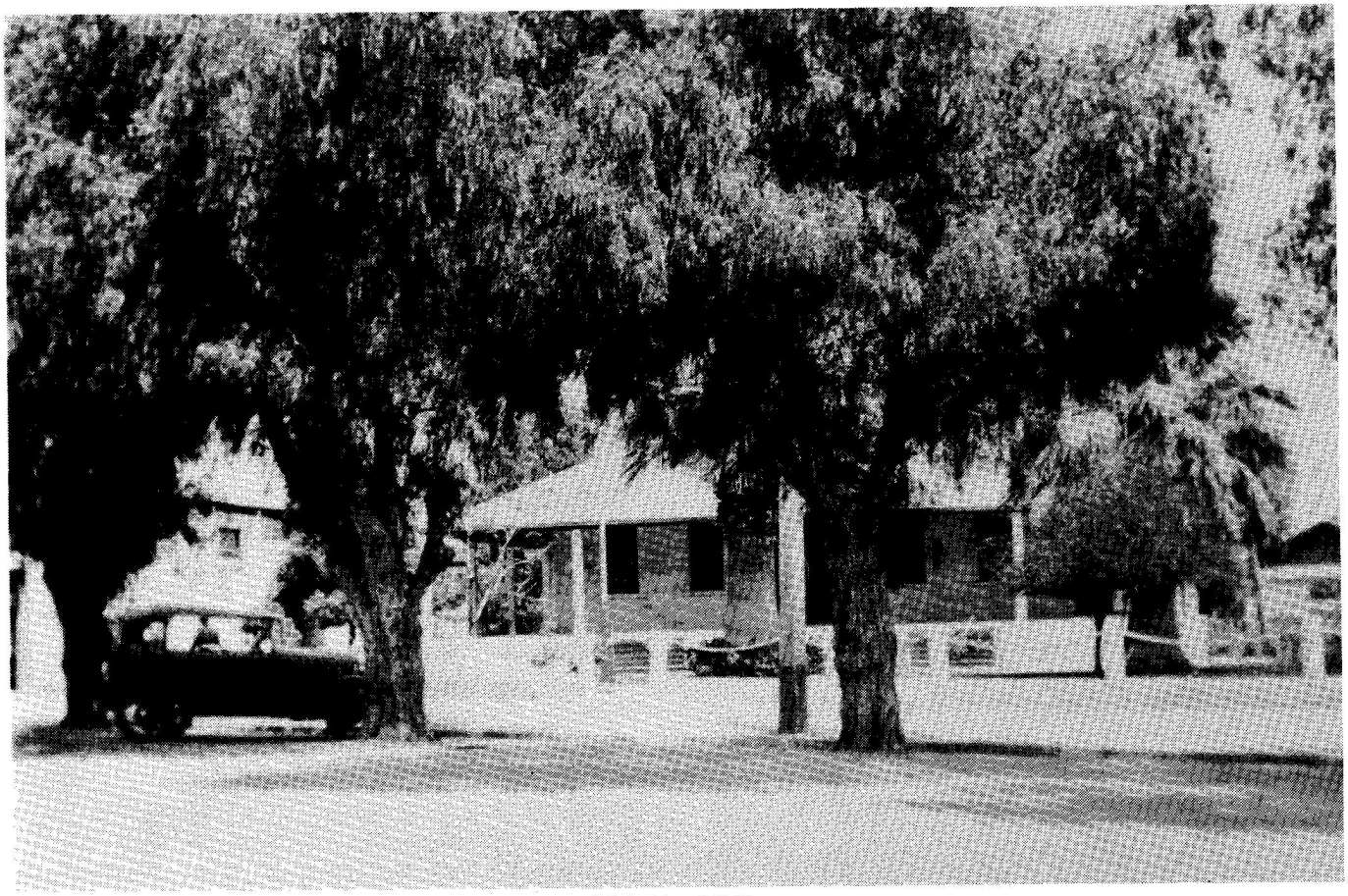
The Trust's approaches to the South Australian Government with regard to powers to construct drainage works and to declare a drainage rate gave rise to a further amendment to its Act, assented to on 23rd November 1933, for this purpose. The Trust entered into an agreement with the South Australian Government to purchase surplus stocks of concrete pipes, in storage at various points along the Murray in South Australia, for installation in the Block E drainage scheme.

Acting upon its new powers, the Trust declared its first drainage rate of 6 shillings and a penny per acre on 256 acres of land in the Block E area in July 1935. However, despite the installation of works to provide drainage disposals to some properties, a special meeting was called under the auspices of the Block E branch of the Agricultural Bureau in January 1936, to discuss the nature and extent of the drainage problem in the area and to seek from the Trust's officers details of the earthen channels to be concrete lined in the 34 foot and Block E areas and the means by which this would be financed. The Trust subsequently adopted proposals put forward by its Staff to reconstruct the 34 foot and Block E main channels and the remaining laterals within the district at an estimated cost of 35,000 pounds. It was proposed that this be financed by way of a special rate of 5 shillings per acre per half-year, with the balance provided from general revenues. In May 1936 the Trust gained the ratepayers' approval for the proposal for the reconstruction and lining of the channel systems.

Electricity Expansion

The proprietors of radio station 5DN in Adelaide gave notice of its intention to establish a relay station in the River areas and the Trust put forward an offer for a power supply to the site of the proposed station 5RM. This prompted an enquiry from the Lyrup Village Association for a supply of electrical energy for the association and also residents of the local area. The Department of Lands also applied for a supply from the system for the pumping station at Chaffey.

Following similar enquiries from the Paringa District, the South Australian Railways gave formal approval for the "top-masting" of a 3 phase line across Paringa bridge to serve the Paringa township. In order that the anticipated increase in electricity demand could be satisfied, the Trust placed an order



Main Trust Office.

Renmark during 1956 Flood.

for 3 Allen crude oil driven alternator sets of 210 b.h.p. each, together with necessary spare parts. Orders were also placed for cable, transformers, meters, and insulators to be installed as part of the expanded electricity distribution system. The Trust began to manufacture its own Stobie poles for erection along the routes of the proposed transmission and distribution mains.

As the Trust's electricity network expanded, consideration was given to the extent to which the distribution system of the Renmark Council had encroached to supply consumers within the Trust's District, including the Renmark Hospital, town primary school, Railway Station, Renmark Growers Distillery, and Renmark Avenue bridge. After a period of negotiation, involving the Trust, the Council and the consumers concerned, it was agreed that the latter should convert to accept an AC supply from the Trust in lieu of the DC supply which had been previously provided by the distribution system maintained by the Council.

District Development

Despite the financial constraints imposed by the Depression, developments continued to occur throughout the district. A water supply was made available to the Renmark Recreation Reserve area and grassing of the main oval and the laying down of grass tennis courts was carried out by the Trust. With the financial support of the Renmark Hotel, a grand stand was erected at the oval, together with shower facilities and other amenities for the benefit of those engaged in sporting pursuits. As the result of negotiations between the Trust and the proprietors of Calperum Station Pty. Ltd., land was made available within the Calperum Pastoral Lease as the site for an aerodrome which permitted the introduction of an aerial mail service. A bus service was licenced by the Trust to operate within the district, this service being introduced by an operator from Mildura.

The Trust was able to arrange for a combined pageant of aircraft from the Adelaide Aero Club and the Royal Australian Air Force to be held to mark the opening of the Renmark Aerodrome in March 1936.

As the demand for electricity continued to increase, the Trust placed a further order for a 355 horse power Allen diesel engine direct coupled to a 240 kw alternator to further supplement the generating plant at the power station.

With the onset of the second World War, and because of the extent of volunteer enlistment, and ultimately conscription, the Trust sought classification as an essential service, so that qualified men in its employ were not called for duty until they could be replaced. Those employees who enlisted were given an assurance of re-appointment on their return from service.

Shortages of materials and suitable labour during those years were such as to restrict the extent of work undertaken by the Trust in the maintenance of its irrigation, drainage, electricity supply and Council works.

Irrigation Expansion

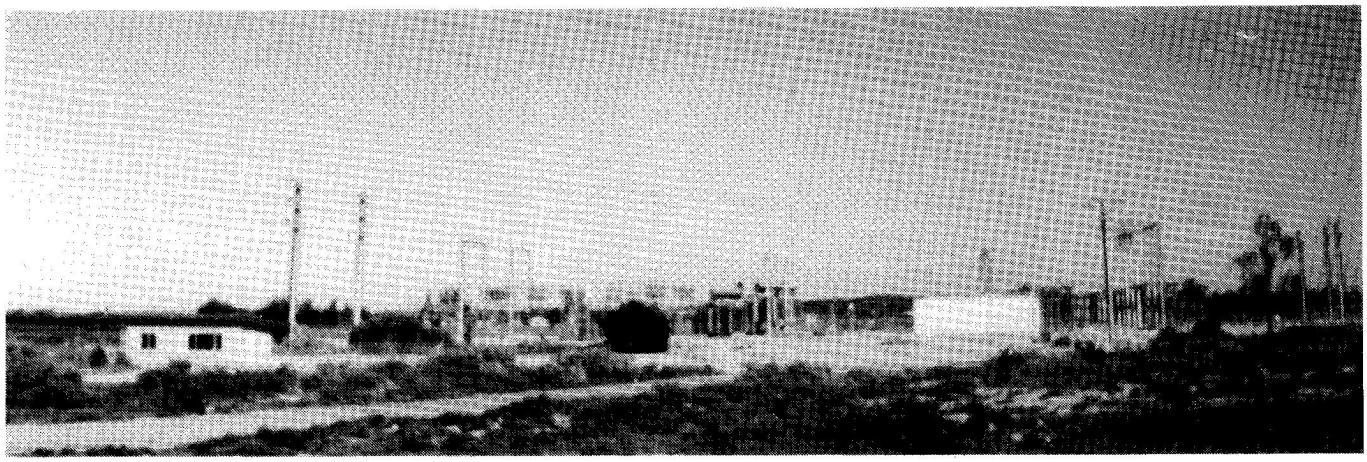
Following the cessation of hostilities, the Trust received an increasing number of applications for water for land in the relift areas of the district, mostly involving land which was situated above the level of the main 60 foot channel system. Those applications which were approved carried conditions that the land must be irrigated by means of sprinklers and that adequate provision was made for drainage in the event that seepage problems developed as the result of this further irrigation development. The requirement for sprinkler irrigation brought with it a greater demand for electricity for private pumping purposes and this, in turn, placed further demands upon the Trust's distribution system. A further generating set, comprising a 920 horsepower National engine and attendant alternator, was installed at the power station in 1946 but the extent of the electricity demand in the areas serviced by the Trust's distribution system eventually proved to be beyond the capacity of the total generating plant. Consequently, as the result of negotiations with the Electricity Trust of South Australia, arrangements were made for the Trust to purchase a supplementary supply of electricity in bulk from E.T.S.A., from a substation constructed at the intersection of Ral Ral Avenue and Bookmark Avenue. A power supply to the soldier settlement area at Cooltong was constructed with the benefit of a 75% grant provided by the Commonwealth Government. The main transmission system was upgraded to 11KV at this time and funded from Trust revenue.

A stone crushing plant was purchased from Perry Engineering Co. Ltd. in October 1946 and installed on a mining lease acquired by the Trust near Calperum Hill. This plant provided material for road construction and concrete aggregate for channel works. Material was eventually supplied to neighbouring Councils and the Highways Department. The plant was extended and a weighbridge installed in 1960 before the operation was sold in 1972.

The rate of expansion of irrigation within the district was ultimately curtailed by a combination of factors, including the capacity of the 60 foot main channel, and the No. 4 pumping station which served it, the capacity of the electricity distribution system and transformers serving the area and finally the frequency of supply required by the lighter sandy soils of the relift areas.

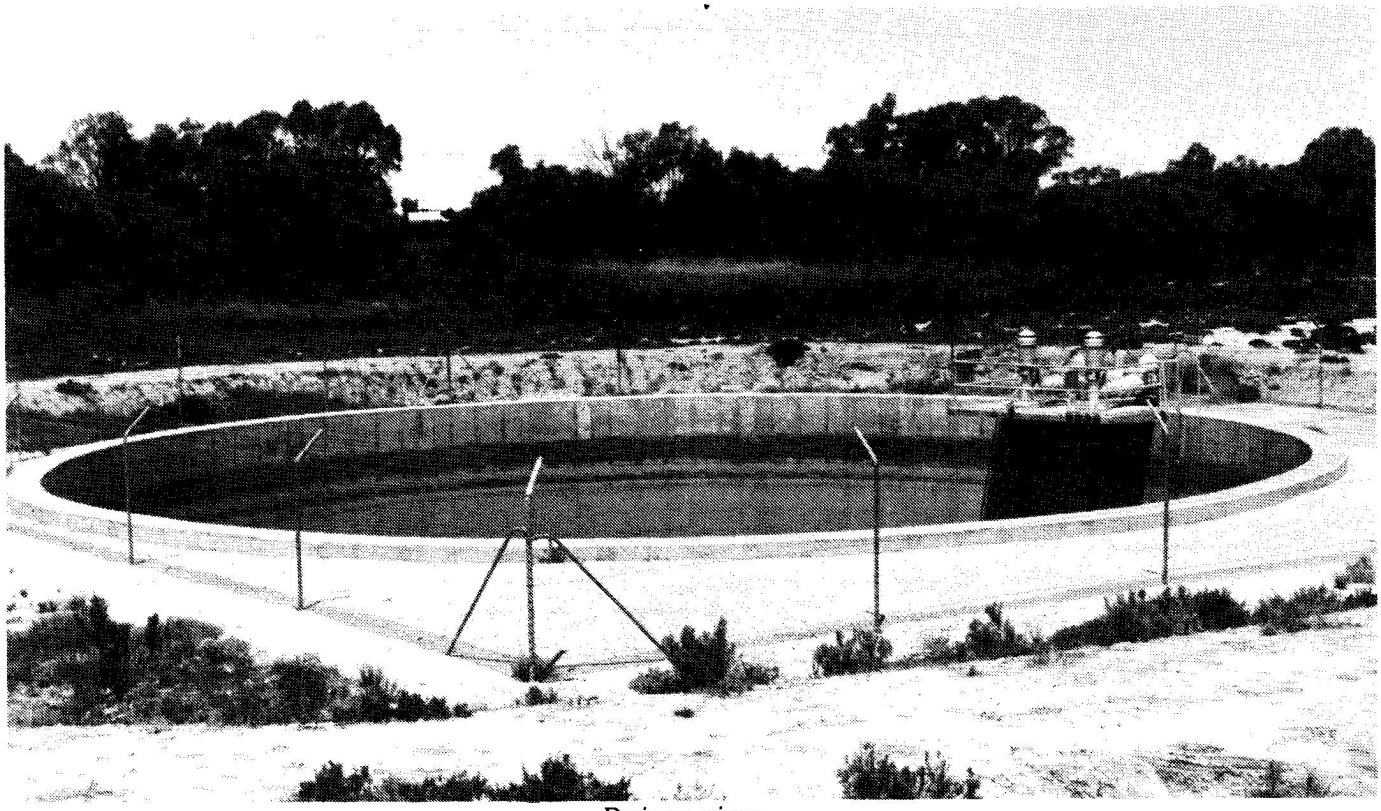
The 1956 Flood

The emergency caused by the flooding of the River Murray system in 1956 placed great demands on the Trust and its staff and employees. In setting up flood control measures and priorities for the Renmark settlement area, the Trust authorized its Chief Engineer, Mr. A.A. Wilkinson, who had been



E.T.S.A. Sub-Station.

BOARD THAT INITIATED REHABILITATION SCHEME
Left to right: T. M. O. B. Price, J. M. Barrington, V. R. Zadow, L. Pedler, R. H. Maddocks, S. W. Heritage, H. J. Katekar, T. W. Pitt, D. L. Tripney.



Drainage caisson.

appointed to the position only three months previously, to assume full control during the flood emergency. The priorities set for flood protection were:

1. The Renmark Hospital
2. The Trust's Pumping Stations and Electricity Sub-Station
3. Local Distilleries.

Instructions were given early in July for the evacuation of the Hale Street area adjacent to the Renmark Hospital and a sequence of evacuation established for low lying settlers' homes. The Trust also directed that normal maintenance works should cease when voluntary labour began work on the flood banking system. A Flood Emergency Committee was appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr. H.J. Katekar, with its role defined as being responsible for evacuation arrangements for the Renmark community and the procurement of voluntary labour from other areas for flood protection works.

The Trust appointed section leaders over defined sections of flood bank and arranged for emergency supplies of sand bags to be made available as required. The night patrolling of banks at all critical times was insisted upon by the Trust and its office was maintained as a communications base 24 hours per day. Arrangements were made with the Commissioner of Highways for placing a load limit on the Renmark Avenue bridge and the local police were instructed to enforce that limit.

Following the breaching of the Ral Ral Avenue bridge by flood waters, the Renmark Avenue bridge became the sole means of access to the Renmark township, apart from the railway system between Renmark and Paringa.

After the flood peak had passed and flood waters began to recede, the Trust began negotiations with the South Australian Government for flood dewatering equipment and the provision of funding for flood seepage removal. More than 162,000 pounds was reimbursed to the Trust for flood protection works during the crisis. Meetings were held with representatives of the Renmark Corporation and offficers of the Central Board of Health on the measures necessary or desirable for the protection of public health within the township and district in the post flood period.

With the expansion of the electricity load and the increasing costs of power generation with its ageing generating plant, the Trust accepted an offer from the Electricity Trust to supply its electricity needs in full. At the same time, it decided that the power station should be retained for standby purposes in case of any short-term failure of the E.T.S.A. supply. The Trust's power house staff were each offered alternative employment.

The shutdown of the power station and the need to centralize its maintenance activities caused the Trust to acquire an 8 acre property in Bookmark Avenue on which a new depot complex was constructed.

Flood Rehabilitation

Once the flood waters had receded, it become apparent to the Trust that some form of compensation should be paid to those ratepayers whose properties had been affected by the erection of flood banks either on or adjacent to their holdings. An inspection by the Murray Flood Embankment Committee was arranged, after which specific flood bank resiting works were approved to be undertaken by a contractor. A Government grant of 25,000 pounds was approved for this purpose. In addition, the Committee, through the Trust, invited ratepayers to submit any claims for damage during the erection of flood banks. As a result, 30 such applications from ratepayers were referred to the Committee for consideration.

The situation of ratepayers whose land was affected either by the location of flood banks within their boundaries or where land became separated by the construction of flood banks on their holdings and the consequent effect of this on their assessments was also given consideration by the Trust. During a meeting with the Commissioner of Land Tax (Mr. A.C. Reiners) the Trust was advised that Departmental personnel were not available for the purpose of making re-assessments, but the Commissioner was able to suggest several private parties who may be able to assist. At the outcome of these discussions, a private valuer was appointed to make valuations of properties affected by the construction of flood banks. The resultant variations to assessments were adopted by the Trust, subject to appeal, and future Council rates declared on the basis of these revised assessments.

Council Amalgamation

In the early post war period, a number of subdivisions of horticultural land had occurred within the district, near the boundary of the township, to provide for further housing allotments as available land within the township was used up. A series of approaches and petitions from residential land holders in the Trust area had complained at the lack of representation on the Trust, despite the fact that they paid district council rates declared by the Trust annually. In considering means of granting a franchise for district council ratepayers without ratable land and who had no say in Trust affairs, the Trust decided that ratepayers, other than water ratepayers, should henceforce be described as householders and given a vote to elect two of their number to form an advisory committee to meet the Trust at an appointed time preceding regular meetings. Such an advisory Committee would make recommendations on problems peculiar to local government in their area. The Secretary was instructed to arrange a meeting with the Parliamentary Draftsman in Adelaide so that representatives of the Trust could discuss a proposal for an amendment to the Trust's Act in these terms.

A further petition was meanwhile received from certain householders for annexation of part of the

Trust's district to that of the Corporation of the Town of Renmark. In response, the Trust sought support from ratepayers at its next annual general meeting on 26th November 1958 for an amendment to its Act to give it full Local Governing powers. The Trust was advised shortly afterwards of the appointment of a special magistrate to take evidence and to enquire into the petitions lodged for the annexation of certain areas of the Trust District to the Corporation of the Town of Renmark. Mr. L.F. Johnson S.M. subsequently took evidence during the week commencing Monday 23rd February 1959.

Pending the outcome of the inquiry, the Trust's Solicitor (Mr. P. Cutlack) advised that the draft Bill to give a franchise to non-water ratepayers in the Trust's district was, in his opinion, unworkable. He strongly advised the Trust not to proceed with the election of two non-ratepayers as proposed. The Trust then deferred further consideration of the matter, pending discussions with the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Lands.

The Minister of Local Government shortly afterwards advised the Trust that, based upon the recommendations of Mr. L.F. Johnson S.M., no action would be taken on a change of Local Government boundaries in Renmark.

The extent of damage to ratable land by flood seepage, the poor condition of the Trust's channel distribution system and the general debilitation of plantings on properties in many areas, caused the Trust to prepare a submission to the Minister of Lands seeking financial assistance for a comprehensive drainage service and the rehabilitation of its pumping and irrigation distribution systems. This had followed several meetings with ratepayers and discussions with parties with expertise in drainage matters and demonstrations of the benefits derived from the installation of drainage disposal facilities in other areas. In a prompt response to this submission, the Premier (Hon. T. Playford M.P.) put forward a proposal for the provision of financial assistance for a comprehensive drainage scheme for the Renmark Irrigation District on condition that the Trust gave an undertaking to withdraw from the exercise of Local Government within its area. This proposal was put before a special general meeting of ratepayers, at which the proposal was carried unanimously.

A joint meeting of representatives of the Trust and the Corporation of Renmark was subsequently held to arrange for the transfer of assets related to the Trust's local government activities, including road making plant, recreation reserve facilities, the Renmark Cemetery, and flood banks. Upon the successful completion of the various negotiations in the matter, the Trust finally withdrew from Local Government affairs on 30th June 1960.

Electric Supply Undertaking Rehabilitation

The services of a consultant were engaged by the Trust to study its electricity distribution system. In discussions with Trust officers, it was agreed that major upgrading of these works was necessary and that expenditure of about 80,000 pounds would be required to bring the system up to a reasonable standard. An approach was made to the Bank of New South Wales for loan funds, in the form of overdraft accommodation, to the extent of 80,000 ponds, while the Trust made formal application to the Minister of Lands for approval to borrow funds to this extent. The Bank subsequently advised of its approval of the loan, to be made available over a period of 5 years, while the Treasurer's approval was also granted for this extended borrowing.

Upgrading of the system proceeded over the next 5 years. However, due to increases in costs which had occurred during the period of the rehabilitation program, the desired works were not completed within the scope of the available funds. A detailed investigation of the finances of the electricity supply undertaking was undertaken, to establish the Trust's capacity to service further borrowings to complete the scheme. These investigations indicated that reductions in revenues, brought about by the adoption, several years previously, of standard E.T.S.A. tariffs to its consumers, and the increasing costs of operating and maintaining its system, provided the Trust with insufficient surpluses to support the repayment of any further loan funds. The Trust therefore had no option but to discontinue any further rehabilitation works for the time being.

Approaches had meanwhile been received from the Electricity Trust for the take over of the Trust's distribution works in the Paringa and Lyrup areas and both were eventually absorbed into the E.T.S.A. system.

After further negotiations extending over several years, the balance of the Trust's electricity supply system was acquired by the Electricity Trust, with the take over competed on 28th February 1973.

Irrigation and Drainage Rehabilitation

The urgent need for the rehabilitation of the irrigation and drainage works in Renmark prompted the Trust to arrange a meeting with Mr. H.W. King M.P. and Mr. C.R. Story M.L.C., after which a proposal was drafted for submission to the Minister or Lands for assistance in the carrying out of a comprehensive survey of the district. Discussions followed in Renmark with officers of the Government Survey Branch and the Department of Lands survey office on the most practical method of obtaining survey information for a re-design of the district's irrigation and drainage works. It was agreed that an aerial survey was desirable and Government assistance was sought in this regard. It was also agreed that a contour survey would be necessary for detailed design work and survey equipment was purchased and staff engaged for this purpose.

The Minister of Lands advised the Trust that officers of the Engineering and Water Supply Department could undertake the design of a comprehensive

drainage scheme for Renmark using the contour information provided by the Trust, on condition that Departmental works would have priority over those of the Trust and that no time limit would be placed on the Department for the completion of the design.

The Trust meanwhile proceeded with the rehabilitation of its irrigation channel system in the Crescent area, having purchased additional plant and engaged additional personnel to do so. Extension of the pump-sump drainage system in the Block E area also proceeded during this period.

In its quest for information on the control of drainage problems, the Trust undertook visits to the Coomealla, Dareton and Mildura Districts and also adjacent areas in the Riverland to study how seepage problems had been overcome in those areas.

In April 1959 the Trust approved the installation of drainage disposal facilities to serve the remainder of the Block E area, at a cost of 28,500 pounds. All ratepayers, when notified of drainage approvals, were advised of the possible need for them to meet a capital charge, based upon the area served, to offset the cost of these works.

Following the Trust's submission to the Minister of Lands in May 1959 in support of funding for a comprehensive drainage scheme, a special meeting of ratepayers was called in August to consider the proposal put forward by Premier Playford for the provision of financial assistance for such a scheme on the understanding that the Trust would withdraw from Local Government affairs. This meeting unanimously supported the acceptance of the Premier's proposal.

The Chaffey Settlers Association later arranged a meeting with the Trust to solicit its support for the provision of drainage facilities for the Chaffey area. The Trust indicated its willingness to permit the incorporation of the southern portion of Chaffey in its comprehensive drainage scheme, provided this did not prejudice the Trust's overall scheme or delay its implementation and that the Department of Lands would meet the proportional costs of installation and maintenance of such works. However, only three properties, with frontages to Ral Ral Avenue, were eventually connected to the Renmark system, at the owners' cost.

On the basis of a visual inspection of seepage affected land in various parts of the district, the Trust sought the approval of the Minister of Lands for the commencement of the comprehensive drainage scheme in the Bookmark area. Discussions were held with officers of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area Tile Drainage Committee and the C.S.I.R.O. to discuss tile drainage philosophy and installation procedures appropriate to properties in Renmark.

Following consideration of the advisability of approaching the Government for further financial assistance towards the cost of the rehabilitation of its irrigation works, the Trust arranged a meeting with the Minister of Lands (Hon. Cecil Hincks) to discuss this proposal. It was arranged that the Trust's Engineer/Manager should meet the Engineer-in-Chief in Adelaide to discuss the matter further.

Negotiations meanwhile, between the Reserve Bank, the Griffith Aero Club and the Trust resulted in the Reserve Bank making a grant of 485 pounds available to meet the cost of an aerial survey of the district by the Aero Club in February 1962.

Based upon the information gained from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, a Tile Drainage Committee was appointed in Renmark, comprising representatives from Banking, the Trust, ratepayers and including personnel with tile drainage expertise and experience.

Following the preparation of specifications and tender documents, and the calling of tenders, contracts were awarded for a succession of drainage contracts for drain laying and the construction or caissons in accordance with the adopted design for the scheme. A proposal was also drafted and submitted to the Auditor-General for the acceleration of the drainage works and a rearrangement of the funding conditions to provide for the earlier completion of the overall scheme.

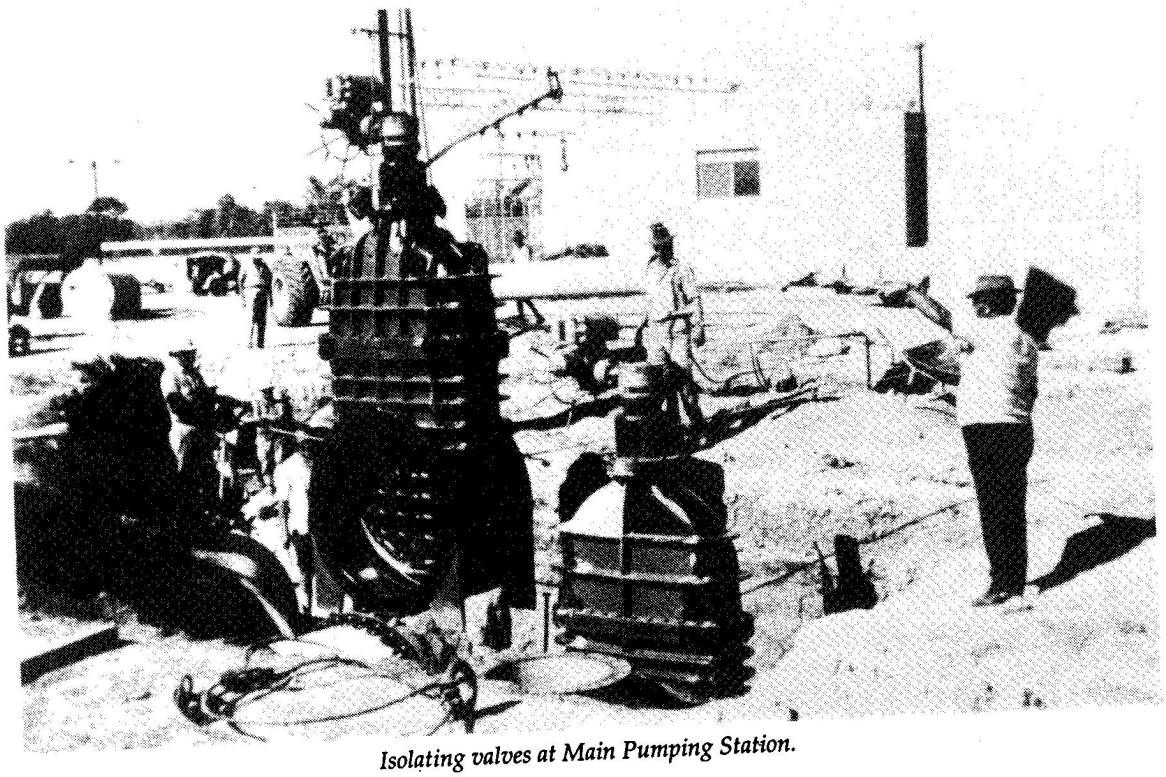
In February 1963, the Minister of Lands (Hon. P.H. Quirke) provided the Trust with his response, which set out more generous conditions and a reduced construction period.

Bearing in mind the problems of water quality experienced by the Trust over many years, arising out of the necessity to gravitate water from the river through the earthen feed channel system to its inland pumping stations, the Trust's Engineer/Manager prepared a proposal for the construction of a main pumping station on the river frontage at the site of the power station and the laying of rising mains into the district. The proposal presented also made provision for the development of a further 2500 - 3000 acres of land in Block X above the 60 foot channel system.

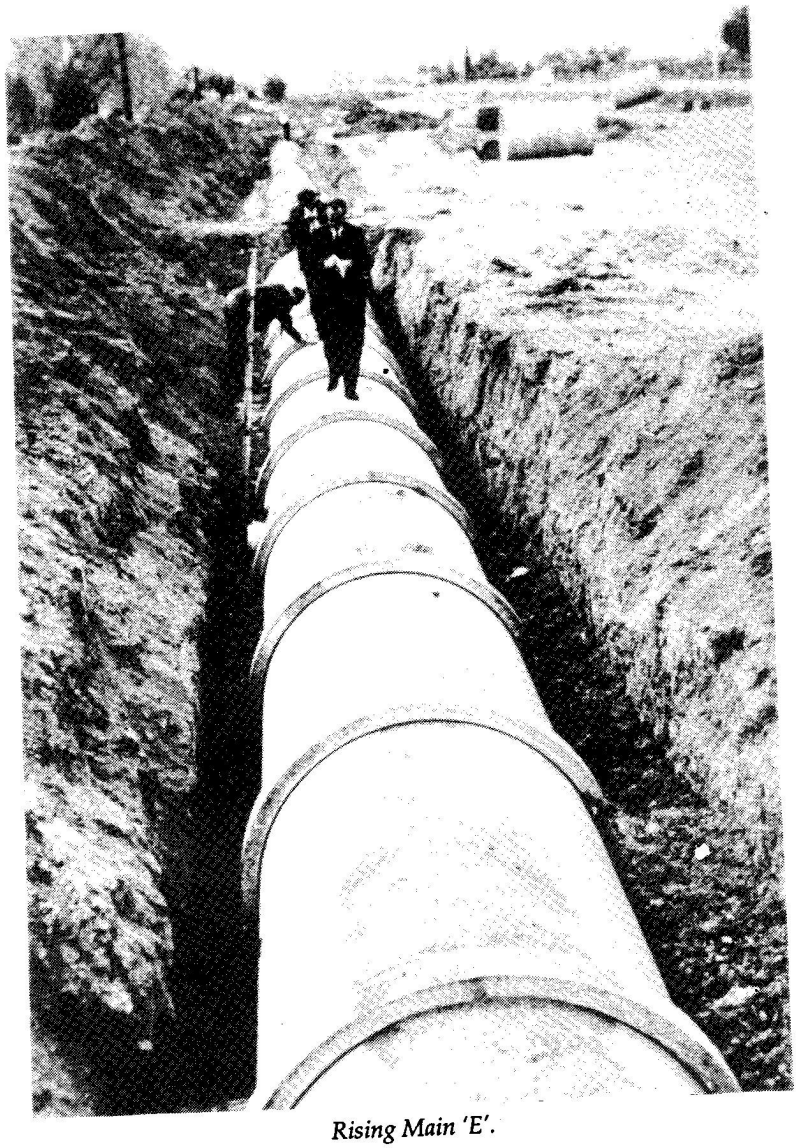
The Trust subsequently arranged for the Minister of Lands (Hon. P.H. Quirke M.P.), the Director of Lands (Mr. J.R. Dunsford) and the Engineer for Irrigation and Drainage (Mr. J.A. Ligertwood) to visit Renmark to inspect the district and to discuss the proposal for the upgrading of the Trust's irrigation pumping and distribution system.

In January 1965 the Trust met with the Premier (Hon. T. Playford M.P.) the Minister of Lands and the Premier's Secretary at which the Premier advised that his estimate of the cost of irrigation and drainage works rehabilitation in Renmark was 1,000,000 pounds. He proposed that the Government would make a grant of 65% of this amount and the Trust would be required to fund the remaining 35%. The Government would also provide the sum of 560,000 pounds by way of grant and loan for a pumping station on the river frontage. This proposal was accepted by the Trust.

Following the State election and change of Government, the Trust received a visit from Premier F.H. Walsh, Minister of Lands (Hon. G.A. Bywaters M.P.), the Local Member (Mr. A.R. Curren M.P.),



Isolating valves at Main Pumping Station.



Rising Main 'E'.

Director of Lands (Mr. J.R. Dunsford), the Assistant Under Treasurer (Mr. E.J. Carey) and the Engineer for Irrigation and Drainage (Mr. J.A. Ligertwood). During discussions on the basis of the Trust's funding proposals for the rehabilitation scheme, the Premier indicated that he would arrange for the Auditor-General to visit Renmark to hold discussions with the Trust and to inquire into its finances.

As the outcome of the Auditor-General's investigations, the Government's proposals for drainage and rehabilitation were amended to provide for 560,000 pounds in the form of a 2/7ths grant and 5/7ths loan for the construction of a pumping station and rising mains and a grant of 500,000 pounds on a dollar for dollar subsidy basis for drainage and rehabilitation

The Auditor-General (Mr. G.H.P. Jeffrey) and the Assistant Auditor-General (Mr. D. Byrne) travelled to Renmark to meet the Trust and to explain the Government's amended proposal in detail.

Upon the Trust's acceptance of the proposal, the new funding arrangements were incorporated in a further amendment to its Act, which was assented to on 24th February 1966.

Because of the complexities of designing works, preparing estimates, preparing tender documents, calling tenders and awarding contracts after receiving Ministerial approval for each of these stages, the Trust suggested to the Minister that a Committee, comprising representatives of both the Government and the Trust, might consider these matters and to act as a bridge between the two. As the outcome of this proposal, the Minister of Irrigation (Hon. J.D. Corcoran M.P.) advised the Trust on 20th February 1967 of the formation of the Renmark Irrigation Trust Rehabilitation Advisory Committee. This Committee comprised Mr. J.A. Ligertwood (Engineer for Irrigation and Drainage) as Chairman, Mr. J.W. Gilchrist (Chief Administrative Officer, Land Settlements, Department of Lands), Mr. J.E. Nitschke (Engineer for Design, Engineering and Water Supply Department) and the Trust's Chairman, Engineer/Manager and Secretary.

The Committee's terms of reference were:

1. To make a careful study of proposed works and prepare a properly co-ordinated program for its execution.
2. To examine any alternatives with a view to achieving the best and most economical results; for example, the merits of pipelines versus channels.
3. To hold regular meetings to review progress and make recommendations on any necessary alterations to the sequences of work which may be dictated by changing circumstances.

The new Committee held its first meeting on 27th February 1967 and agreed to meet at intervals of about 6 weeks, or as required, to consider matters within its terms of reference. The Committee agreed upon a procedure whereby its recommendations would be submitted directly to the Trust and, in the event of the latter's adoption of the recommendations, the Trust should then make a formal approach to the Minister for approval of each proposal in accordance with the provisions of the Act. It was also agreed that tenders received for each phase of the works program should be referred to the Committee for study and recommendation prior to the acceptance of the successful tender by the Trust.

One of the Committee's early deliberations was on the matter of expansion of the irrigated area of the district and it was agreed that a soil survey of Block X was necessary to assist in arriving at a meaningful decision in this matter. The results of the subsequent survey showed that only isolated areas, in the form of strip development, were suitable for irrigated culture in Block X. Acting upon this advice, the Trust decided to make provision for only 600 acres of further development in Block X to be incorporated in the works comprised in the rehabilitation scheme.

The deliberations of the R.I.T. Rehabilitation Advisory Committee were such as to assist materially in the expediting of the design and estimating of the works, for which considerable assistance was given by Engineering staff of the Engineering and Water Supply Department during the years which followed.

The need for an alternative site for the disposal of drainage effluent from the Block E and adjacent areas resulted in negotiations being entered into with the Renmark Sub-branch of the R.S.L. for the takeover of an area of the Sub-branch's commonage lease adjacent to Ral Ral Creek, in exchange for a similar area of land in the Calperum pastoral lease and comprising about 800 acres.

In August 1968, the Trust placed a proposal before the Minister that Members of the Committee should be authorized to undertake a study tour of irrigation installations at various locations overseas. The Minister responded promptly to the suggestion, advising that he had approved a study tour being undertaken by Messrs. J.W. Gilchrist (Department of Lands), Mr. G.M. Story (Supervising Design Engineer, Engineering and Water Supply Department), the Trust's Chairman (Mr. S.W. Heritage) and Engineer/Manager (Mr. R.H. Maddocks). This tour took place between October - November 1968 and involved the study of pumping and/or irrigation and drainage systems in California, U.K., France and Israel.

On their return, the tour members prepared a comprehensive report on their investigations, referring particularly to "on-demand" irrigation systems and expressing the view that metering of irrigation water was obligatory for the introduction of such systems. Other aspects included the replacement of channels with pipelines and the adoption of a new concept in pumping station design.

Irrigation Supply Chamber.

Shoring up trench.

studied the concepts of the computerized systems operated by the Engineering and Water Supply Department at Waikerie and Berri, the Trust sought the Department's assistance in programming a computerized system, incorporating its own criteria, for the Renmark district. Approval was granted and the services of the Departmental programmer who had devised and developed the systems at Waikerie and Berri were made available to the Trust.

The introduction of computerized water ordering and automated pumping permitted orders to be taken at the Murray Avenue office. This had the disadvantage that orders would be taken only during office hours, instead of continuously, but the labour savings arising from the introduction of unmanned operation of the main pumping station were considered to outweigh the disadvantage of shorter ordering hours. The Trust's decision to accept orders at the main office for two hours each day on weekends and public holidays also provided some compensation for the otherwise shorter period during which orders would be taken daily.

Private Irrigation Expansion

The Renmark Irrigation District has an annual water allocation of 40,000 acre-feet (49,340,000 kilolitres) and the Trust, as the licensee for the district, is issued with a Water Diversion Licence by the S.A. Government for this volumetric entitlement.

In order that this allocation is fully committed, so that the Trust's works are utilized to their maximum potential, and the ratepayer community has maximum access to the available water, the Trust at the conclusion of the rehabilitation programme declared all irrigable land serviced by the irrigation system in the primary lift area to be ratable land. It then invited land-owners in the relift areas with land within a prescribed distance of the Trust's irrigation works to apply for the assessment of their previously non-irrigated land. This invitation bore the proviso that those land-owners should each agree to meet the cost of the delivery of water from the Trust's works to their respective property boundaries.

After satisfying the needs of those who responded favourably to the invitation, it was then established that adequate water was still available to service a further 360 hectares or thereabouts, to bring the total ratable area of the district to 4,650 hectares.

Negotiations were then initiated between the Trust and Yandilla Park for an irrigation supply to such an area of the Company's extensive land holdings in the relift area. On completion of these negotiations, the Company installed its own pumping station in the primary lift area near a major Trust irrigation main. A large diversion meter was installed by the Trust, at the Company's expense, between the off-take on the main and the Company's pumping station.

All costs associated with the delivery of water from the Company's pumps to its newly ratable land were met by the Company.

The Company now has the benefit of an irrigation allocation from the Trust's system, at the same unit cost as that levied by the Trust for all other ratepayers, which it distributes through a most sophisticated irrigation system on its property, which it has titled Greenhill Orchards.

Shellfish in Pipelines

The increasing problem of crustacea entering and reproducing in the water distribution system caused the Trust to seek advice from various sources. Apart from the blockages which occurred in irrigators' pumping equipment and filters, the shell-fish were believed to be the source of unpleasant odours present at times in water diverted from the system for domestic purposes.

Through the auspices of the Department of Zoology at the University of Adelaide, the Trust was able to engage the services of Mr. Tony Woolford, who carried out a detailed study of the problem.

Mr. Woolford, who had little recognized research material to refer to, carried out research into the biology of and control options for the crustacea, which he identified as Corbiculina Australis. While it contributed towards the cost of Mr. Woolford's research, which he submitted as a thesis for his honours degree in Bachelor of Science, the Trust had access to the recommendations it contained.

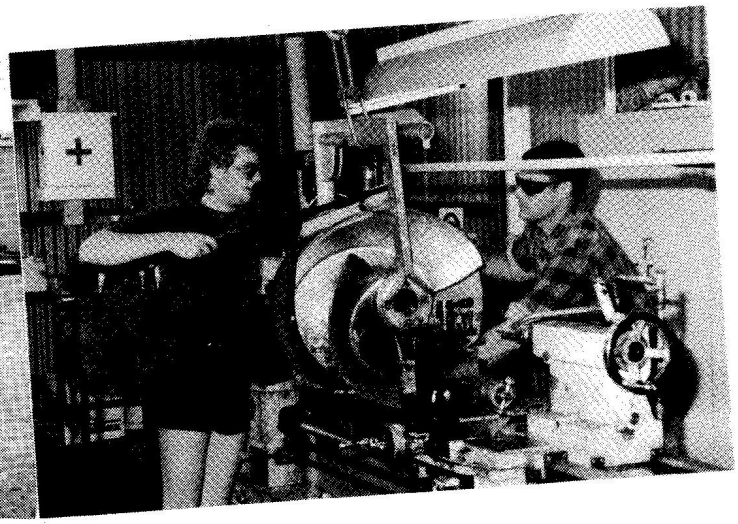
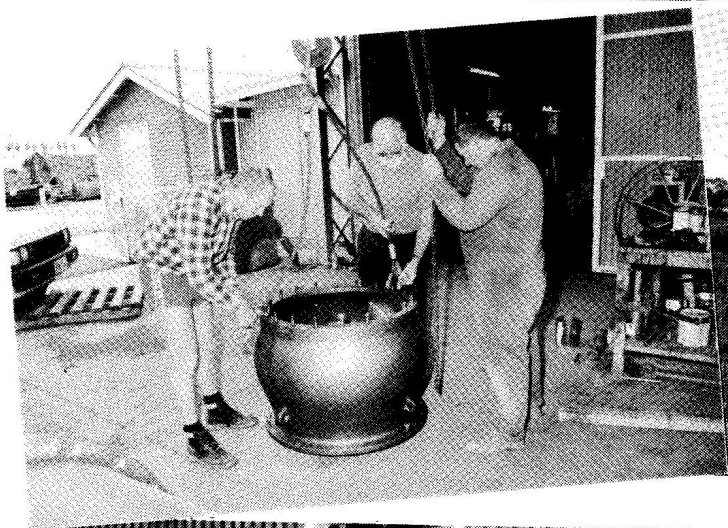
Acting upon these recommendations, the Trust adopted a procedure whereby the ducted screens installed under the main pumping station are flushed free of silt annually, so depriving the crustacea of a site for breeding and early development of the embryo shell-fish. The pipework and surge tower at the station are also cleaned of silt annually as an additional control procedure. These measures are successful in reducing the extent of the earlier problem and are considerably cheaper than the alternative of chlorinating the water distributed through the 130 kilometres of pipelines which now comprise Renmark's irrigation reticulation system.

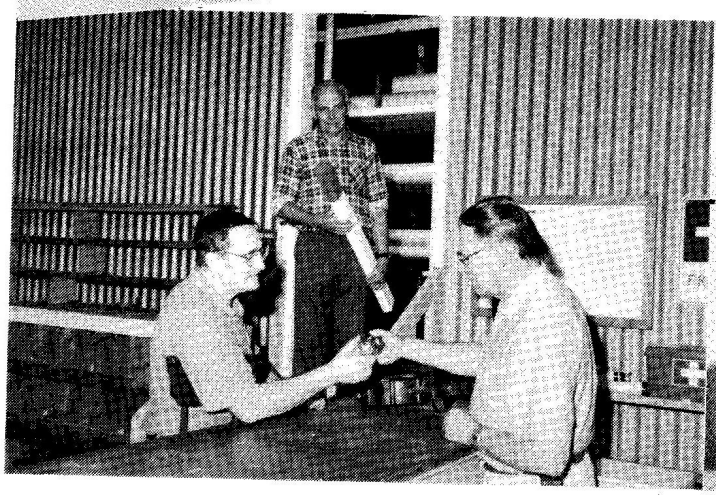
Present Leadership

On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the constitution of the Trust, the elected membership now comprises, William George Cropper as Chairman, John Francis Craker, David John Dix, Edward John Robert Dopson, Donald Ray Matulick, Roger Frank Pinyon and Kenneth Ross Richards.

The current Chief Executive Officer is Secretary/Manager William David Morris, who succeeded the former Manager Peter John Quigley following the latter's untimely death from cancer in March 1992 at the age of 47 years.

Mr. Quigley began his service with the Trust after leaving school at age 16 and, in the intervening 29 years, progressively gained a series of promotions to ultimately achieve the senior staff appointment in 1990.



On Reflection

This brief insight into the first one hundred years of the Renmark Irrigation Trust will convey to the reader the range of activities which the Trust either initiated, or became involved in, over this period.

One significant aspect which becomes apparent is the extent to which the Trust has consulted with its ratepayer community in reaching decisions on matters which have had such direct bearings on the future profitability, competitiveness or comfort of this community. Much of the Trust's success can be attributed to its willingness to look and listen and to respond to the wishes of its ratepayers rather than impose its will upon those whom it represents.

In the space of a hundred years, the Trust has been involved in:

(i) Local Government

(ii) the generation and distribution of electricity

(iii) the quarrying and crushing of limestone

(iv) its original function of irrigation supply and drainage disposal.

Today, the Trust has retained only the last of these, devoting its total energies to providing a service to its ratepayers which is now envied by irrigators in many other areas.

The annexation of the Trust's district to the Council area administered by the Corporation of the Town of Renmark and the absorption of the Trust's electricity undertaking into that of the Electricity Trust of South Australia have ultimately been in the best interests of the total community.

The Trust now enters another era with the benefit of the experience gained over the past century and with the intention to strive to improve its present standard of service to its ratepayers in the future.

Chairmen of the Trust

1894 - 1897	C.M. Morant
1897 - 1898	R. Turner
1898 - 1899	H. Showell
1899 - 1903	J.M. Smith
1903 - 1904	C.F. Chaffey
1904 - 1906	H. Showell
1906 - 1907	M.S. Woodward
1907 - 1910	E.R. Olorenshaw
1910 - 1913	J.M. Smith
1913 - 1915	E.R. Olorenshaw
1915 - 1917	H. Showell
1917 - 1921	J.M. Smith
1921 - 1925	W.R. Woodham
1925 - 1945	C.H. Katekar
1945 - 1947	W.H. Waters
1947 - 1957	C.S. Ruston
1957 - 1966	T.M. Price
1966 - 1970	S.W. Heritage
1970 - 1972	T.W. Pitt
1972 - 1973	S.W. Heritage
1973 - 1978	T.W. Pitt
1978 - 1984	V.R. Zadow
1984 - 1991	D. Coombe
1991 -	W.G. Cropper

Engineers of the Trust

1923 - 1926	H.G. Tolley
1926 - 1955	J.S. Tolley
1955 - 1956	B. Addis
1956 - 1958	A.A. Wilkinson

Engineer-Managers of the Trust

1961 - 1964	F.F.B. Waltham
1964 - 1973	R.H. Maddocks
1973 - 1983	M.G. Gallasch

Manager of the Trust

1990 - 1992	P.J. Quigley

Secretary-Managers of the Trust

1983 - 1990	D.L. Tripney
1992 -	W.D. Morris

Secretaries of the Trust

1894 - 1896	J. Price
1896 - 1926	A. Roper
1926 - 1936	R.C. Penhall
1936 - 1945	H.C. Dridan
1945 - 1946	V.J. Tillett
1946 - 1951	J.A. Brazel
1951 - 1960	R.H. Waters
1960 - 1965	R.L. Hender
1965 - 1983	D.L. Tripney
1990 - 1992	W.D. Morris

THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 1992/93

Back row (left to right): R. F. Pinyon, D. Coombe, E. J. R. Dopson.
Middle row: R. V. Smart, W. G. Cropper, J. F. Craker, K. R. Richards.
Front row: W. D. Morris, B. R. Schier.

CHAIRMAN	W. G. Cropper
VICE-CHAIRMAN	J. F. Craker
MEMBERS	D. Coombe
	E. J. R. Dopson
	R. F. Pinyon
	K. R. Richards
	R. V. Smart

PRINCIPAL STAFF

SECRETARY/ MANAGER	W. D. Morris
OPERATIONS MANAGER	B. R. Schier
TECHNICAL OFFICER	D. L. Flint
WATERMASTER	R. M. Humble
DEPUTY WATERMASTER	L. H. Smith
WORKS SUPERVISOR	T. W. Kurtzer

THE
RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT 1992/93

It is with pleasure that I present the 1992/93 report to Ratepayers on the activities of the Trust.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS - At the close of nominations at noon on the 15th June 1992, being the third Monday, the three retiring Members, Messrs. W.G. Cropper, R.F. Pinyon and K.R. Richards were elected unopposed for further two year terms as from the first Saturday in July 1992.

Mr. B.H. Hughes was elected unopposed to the Office of Auditor for a two year term commencing from the first Monday in September 1992.

ANNUAL MEETING - At the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Trust held on Tuesday 7th July 1992, Messrs. W.G. Cropper and J.F. Craker were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

FINANCE - Due to the unseasonal conditions that prevailed during part of last year, particularly from September through to December 1992, revenue was down on the original estimate, even when revised for the second half year. Special irrigation totalled $49 989-10 which was well short of the estimate of $172 000-00 at the start of the season and still under the revised estimate of $90 000-00. Pumping costs were also down which helped offset some of the loss of income.

The general irrigation rate remained at $157-50 for both half years, which gave a special irrigation rate of 4.2 c/kilolitre.

Diversions for the year totalled 28 863 637 kilolitres of which 27 409 261 kilolitres was for irrigation, while the special irrigation diversion was 1 188 049 kilolitres representing approximately 4.3% of irrigation diversions. This percentage rate is normally around 12%.

OPERATIONS - Two major items of capital works that were carried out covered the part duplication of drainage rising main No. 2 line for a length of 387 metres and the part duplication of drain line 3A1 for 95.20 metres. The cost of these duplications were funded from the Asset Replacement Investment Fund which was created in 1990 for these types of work. The cost could not be funded from normal day to day operations, without causing an increase in Water Rate charges. Part of the old concrete rising main No. 2 line was exhumed and the pipes taken back as surplus stock items. The purchase of new rubber rings will enable some of these pipes to be utilized on such works as the extension of scour outlet lines.

During 1992/93 43 No. 6" irrigation metres were removed, tested, modified for easier removal and then retested. Each meter is re-installed as another is removed for modification. This compares to 26 No. that were done during the previous year.

A new rotork actuator was installed on main pump No. 4 when it burnt out twice within a fortnight. This unit had previously been repaired, because of a burnt out motor, in the 1980's.

The heavy rain over the 1992 Christmas period, especially in the Block E area, caused a lot of inconvenience and additional maintenance work. The majority of the $35 422 shown under District General Maintenance in the annual accounts is associated with this event.

ANNUAL SHUTDOWN - During the July 1992 annual shutdown the normal tasks such as the desilting of the Main Rising Mains up to and including the surge Tower and Main Isolating pit sections were completed. A 600mm butterfly isolating valve was removed in 23rd Street and a new valve installed. Lateral B11 in Moorna Street and Lateral E11 in Warrego Street had 300mm isolating valves installed. The valve in Moorna Street had to be buried as it was situated in a driveway. The steel lid of the valve chamber can be located with a probe and the soil easily removed for access purposes in case of an emergency.

Various other works of a minor nature were carried out in the field during the shutdown.

VEHICLES AND PLANT - Five Nissan Navara vehicles were changed over during the year. All the Trust's Nissan Navaras are now tray tops instead of utilities. The Holden Commodore was also traded. Normal purchases of portable plant occurred as required. All equipment was serviced and maintained on a programmed basis.

STAFF - In July 1992 the Board reclassified Mr. B.R. Schier from Electrical-Mechanical Superintendent to Operations Manager and Mr. T.W. Kurtzer from General Foreman to Works Supervisor. This completed the restructuring of the workforce which came about due to the death of P.J. Quigley earlier in 1992.

It is with regret that I report that Mr. Frank Waltham a former Engineer-Manager employed by the Trust from 1961 to 1964, passed away in March 1993.

Mr. G.N. Twyford resigned from the maintenance workforce in April 1993 after completing seven years service with the Trust. Mr. G.T. Ambler was employed in June 1993 to fill the position vacated by Mr. T. Komar who was promoted to take over the vacancy caused by Mr. Twyford's resignation.

During November 1992, Mrs. J.A. Berry commenced her second term of maternity leave. During her absence the Trust decided to employ a school leaver to give that person some experience in an office situation, although it was to be only for a short period. During November 1992 and June 1993 three females occupied this temporary position, they were Miss Linda Pitt (three months) and Miss Kerry Checker (one month) both of whom now have permanent employment elsewhere and Miss Barbie Minge (three months) who still holds this position.

BOARD - Mr. David Coombe, a Member for nearly thirteen years, with seven years as Chairman, decided not to seek re-election when his term finished in June 1993. Mr. Smart, a Member for ten years also decided not to seek re-election. I take this opportunity to thank both Members for their efforts and advice as well as their friendship during my time both as a Member and as Chairman. I also extend a welcome to the two newly elected Members, Messrs. D.R. Matulick and D.J. Dix who will commence their two year terms of office from the first Saturday in July 1993.

I would also like to thank the other Members for their support during the past year.

W.G. Cropper, CHAIRMAN

RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 1993

	1993 $	1992 $
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Customers	1 639 835	1 782 482
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	(1 116 730)	(1 204 471)
Interest Received	29 811	27 608
Interest and Costs of Finance Paid	(220 070)	(218 058)
Net Cash Provided (used) by Operating Activities [NOTE (b)]	332 846	387 561
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	1 213	68 694
Proceeds from Sale of Investments	–	873
Payment for Property, Plant & Equipment	(134 984)	(175 972)
Net Cash Provided (used) by Investing Activities	(133 771)	(106 405)
Cash Flows from Finance Activities		
Repayment of Borrowings	(63 390)	(60 120)
Net Cash Provided (used) by Financing Activities	(63 390)	(60 120)
Net Increase in Cash held	135 685	221 036
Cash held at Beginning of the Year	463 835	242 799
Cash held at end of the Year [NOTE (a)]	599 520	463 835

NOTE (a) *Reconciliation of Cash*. For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdraft. Cash at the end of the year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

	1993 $	1992 $
Cash	500	500
At Call Deposits with Financial Institutions	599 020	463 335
	599 520	463 835

NOTE (b) Reconciliations of Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities to Net Surplus for Year

	1993 $	1992 $
Net Surplus for Year	88 323	112 045
Non Cash Flows in Operating Profit		
Depreciation	262 554	265 034
Changes to Provisions	16 280	4 196
Profit on Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	(8 722)	(19 483)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease (Increase) in Debtors and Accrued Revenue	(6 616)	37 223
Decrease in Creditors and Accruals	(4 470)	(6 487)
Increase in Inventories	(14 503)	(4 967)
	332 846	387 561

THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

REVENUE AND RATE APPROPRIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 1993

1992		REVENUE OF THE TRUST FOR THE YEAR	1993	
		Water Supply		
1447474		General Irrigation Rates	1463537	
10065		Sale of Water Under Agreement	11498	
178988		Special Water Sales	49898	
	1636527			1524933
		Other Revenue		
24771		Interest on Outstanding Irrigation Rates	25290	
1915		Private Diverters' Meter Rental	1915	
16142		General Purpose Consumers Charges	17057	
64731		Domestic & Industrial Water Fees	66169	
9702		Interest Received	7962	
2261		Surplus on Plant Operation	11622	
682		Sundry Receipts	811	
	120204			130826
	$1756731	**TOTAL REVENUE FOR THE YEAR**		$1655759
		From Which is Deducted:		
		Expenditure Incurred in Earning that Revenue		
		Water Supply and Distribution		
300666		Pumping Power Costs	245434	
109707		Pumping Plant Maintenance	108997	
70285		Water Distribution	66608	
156685		Irrigation System Maintenance	136083	
40056		Domestic Supply System Maintenance	31817	
2318		Private Diverters' Meter Maintenance	2864	
	679717			591803
		Drainage		
20108		Pumping Power Costs	24640	
46479		Pumping Plant Maintenance	49267	
45453		Drainage System Maintenance	37274	
	112040			111181
		Administration		
138956		Salaries	129387	
19260		Members Remuneration	18460	
106704		Clerical and Administration Expenses	100195	
4751		Audit Fees and Expenses	4394	
	269671			252436
		General		
20297		Portable Plant Maintenance	21980	
46127		Survey and Design Expenses	47002	
72929		Property Maintenance	60356	
-		District General Maintenance	35422	
-		Centenary Costs	485	
265035		Depreciation	262554	
	404388			427799
	$1465816	**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR**		$1383219
	290915	**Surplus on Operations for the Year**		272540
	(218058)	**Less** Interest Due and Payable on Government Loans		(214788)
-		**Plus** Profit on Works Reclaimed	614	
19483		Profit on Sale of Plant and Equipment	8108	
17906		Interest on Asset Replacement Reserve (NET)	21849	
1799		Land Dividers Contributions	-	
	39188			30571
	112045	Net Surplus for Year		88323
1518092		Revenue Account Balance Brought Forward	1930401	
14359		**Add** Private Funded Capital Works	14327	
540930		Mtce. & Replacement Reserve Written Back	-	
-		**Less** Water Urn Written Off	(70)	
(194905)		Transfer to Asset Provision and Replacement Reserve	(157734)	
(60120)		Transfer to Government Loans Amortization Reserve	(63389)	
	1818356			1723535
	$1930401	**TRANSFER TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS**		$1811858

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED

THE RENMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 1993

1992					1993
		TRUST FUNDS			
		Accumulated Funds and Reserves			
1930401		Revenue Account		1811858	
423863		Asset Provision and Replacement Reserve (Note 1)		581597	
762080		Amortization Reserve (Note 2)		825469	
	3116344				3218924
398377		Land and Building Revaluation Reserve			398377
4473006		Grants by the State Treasurer for Rehabilitation Works			4473006
$7987727		**TOTAL TRUST FUNDS**			$8090307
		FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY :			
		Fixed Assets			
106212		Land - at Valuation 1/7/86 with Additions at Cost		106212	
18064		Land Improvement		18064	
				124276	
360984		Buildings - at Valuation 1/7/86	360984		
32312		Buildings - at Cost	37963		
				398947	
(43402)		**Less** Accumulated Depreciation		50513	
				348434	
	474170				472710
		Rehabilitation Works			
1890797		Pumping Stations and Rising Mains	1890797		
4182980		Pipeline Irrigation System	4182980		
316480		Domestic Water Supply System	316142		
3420811		Drainage System	3420811		
				9810730	
(482791)		**Less** Accumulated Depreciation		669350	
				9141380	
		Works (Trust Funded since Rehalilitation)			
10147		Private Diverters Facilities	10147		
20530		Meter Testing Bay Facilities	20530		
420545		Trust Funded Irrigation Works	465047		
3325		Trust Funded Domestic Works	3505		
79560		Trust Funded Drainage Works	129621		
				628850	
(58198)		**Less** Accumulated Depreciation		72464	
				556386	
		Works (Privately Funded since Rehabilitation)			
273561		Irrigation	282764		
72720		Domestic	77032		
16906		Drainage	16906		
				376702	
(49159)		**Less** Accumulated Depreciation		57140	
				319562	
	10118214				10017328
		Plant and Equipment - at Cost			
109460		Office Furniture, Plant and Equipment		113217	
461586		Mobile Plant and Vehicles		478556	
				591773	
(304981)		**Less** Accumulated Depreciation		329166	
	266065				262607
		Investments			
398531		Works Replacement Reserve Fund - Invested		568891	
-		**Less** Payments From Fund		34476	
				534415	
25332		**Add** Interest Earned (NET)		47182	
	423863				581597
		Current Assets			
128036		Stores Stocks - at Cost		140392	
8082		Surplus Stocks for Disposal		10229	
39472		Westpac Banking Corporation - Current Account		17423	
155769		Debtors and Accrued Revenue		162387	
500		Cash on Hand		500	
	331859				330931
$11614171		**TOTAL ASSETS**			$11665173
		LESS Deferred Liabilities :			
138823		Loans by the State Treasurer for Drainage and Rehabilitation		129348	
907124		Pumping Stations and Rising Mains		883565	
1248971		Pipeline Irrigation and Drainage Extensions		1228847	
276189		Domestic Water Supply System		271758	
862327		Completion of Rehabilitation Works		856527	
	3433434				3370045
		LESS Current Liabilities :			
26923		Creditors and Accruals		22454	
166087		Provision for Long Service Leave		182367	
	193010				204821
$7987727		**NET ASSETS**			$8090307

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED